



**Become a shared lives carer and help people to live fulfilling lives**



[www.luton.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.luton.gov.uk/sharedlives)

**Luton**

## What is the Shared Lives Service?

The Shared Lives Service supports young people, adults or elderly persons who need care and support, due to mental health problems, learning or physical disabilities the opportunity to live independently in the community and can be an alternative to living in a care home.

It matches people who need care and support with an approved carer. The carer shares their family and community life and gives care and support to the person with care needs. Some people live with their shared lives carer, while others are regular daytime visitors or may combine daytime visits with overnight stay.

## Could you be a Shared Lives carer?

Our Shared Lives carers are passionate and dedicated about the support they provide and this is why shared lives is such a successful form of care in our community. By offering time and encouragement, carers are able to develop long term, rewarding relationships with the person that they welcome into their family and home.

Shared Lives carers come from all walks of life and choose to care for lots of different reasons. Potential carers go through a rigorous assessment process to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved. We carefully match the shared lives carer with the person requiring support to make sure that the arrangement works well for everyone.

Shared Lives carers need to be flexible, patient and practical with an approach that is centred on the person they are supporting. Commitment, motivation and enthusiasm are more important than formal caring qualifications as training is provided by the scheme.



Shared Lives carers are self-employed and work from home. They receive payments depending on the amount of help they provide and the level of need of the person they support. Shared Lives carers will receive financial support to help with rent and running of the household where applicable.

## How does it work?

The person either moves in with their chosen Shared Lives carer and lives with them as a member of their family, or visit their Shared Lives carer regularly for respite. Shared Lives carers are carefully selected and trained by regulated Shared Lives schemes, with the goal of enabling people to benefit from an individual and highly personalised service. Shared Lives carers spend time with the individual they have been matched with doing things they both enjoy.

## What help is available to carers?

Shared Lives carers are given a full induction and training available via the council. There are regular meetings with other carers and the support team. All carers receive regular support and monitoring visits.



**Sue, Shared Lives carer**

*Shared Lives enhances our lives.*

*You will be living a normal family life, doing things family do together, having chilled out days at home or going out for meals, going to the theatre or choosing where to go on holiday.*

*You will be listened to and supported to make your own choices and decisions on how you want to live your best life and reach your goals.*

*If extra support is needed, carers have the support from all the Adult Social Care Team.*

## How to become a Shared Lives carer

Being a Shared Lives carer is a rewarding and flexible career. You will be considered self-employed and will receive an income and an allowance to help you fulfil this valuable role.

All our carers go through an assessment process which takes around three months; it includes an application form, enhanced DBS check, home visits, training and an interview with our Approval Panel. Our friendly team of specialist support staff will go through the whole process with you – we're here to help every step of the way.

If you think you might have the time and space in your home and in your heart to offer care or support for vulnerable adults, then we would love to hear from you.

**Please call our Shared Lives team on 01582 548562 or email [sharedlives@luton.gov.uk](mailto:sharedlives@luton.gov.uk) for an informal discussion or visit [www.luton.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.luton.gov.uk/sharedlives) or scan the QR code.**



**Eve**

*"I enjoying living with my Shared Lives carer and love how supportive she is. I enjoy doing voluntary work at one of the charity shops in town, which I am able to get to by myself and I regularly visit my boyfriend. I feel like a part of family and I have made lots of lovely new friends."*